

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 IO-04 SR-02 ORM-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 NIC-01

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R 011342Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4423

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6294

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET JOURNALISTS VISIT ISRAEL

1. ISRAELI PRESS REPORTED ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL LAST WEEK OF THREE SOVIET JOURNALISTS WHO HAD BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART IN RAKAH (PRO-ARAB COMMUNIST PARTY) SPONSORED PRESS FESTIVAL. THE THREE VISITORS WERE IDENTIFIED IN PRESS AS SEMOYN DAVIDOVITCH INDURSKY, EDITOR OF A MOSCOW EVENING PAPER: ALEXEI MEFA NOVITCH VISHNIAKOV, CHIEF EDITOR OF MONTHLY "POLITICAL SELF-EDUCATION", AND CONSTANTIN YEROVANOVICH GAIVUANDOV, EDITOR OF INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF PRAVDA.

2. ON THEIR ARRIVAL AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT THEY SOMEWHAT ASTONISHED ISRAELI GOVT OFFICIALS BY GIVING PRESS CONF COMMENTING ON IMPLICATIONS OF JACKSON AMENDMENT FOR JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM SOVIET UNION AND ISSUE OF POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. ON FORMER, SOVIETS PREDICTABLY CLAIMED THAT JEWS WERE FREE TO LEAVE SOVIET UNION EXCEPT FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN STATE WORK, AND THAT NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS WOULD DEPEND ON NUMBER OF VISA APPLICATIONS RECEIVED. ON PROSPECTS FOR RESUMING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIETS REITERATED STANDARD POSITION THAT THIS COULD OCCUR

ONLY AFTER THERE HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE
AND THE NORMALIZATION OF SITATUION IN MID EAST.

3. THE JOURNALISTS ALSO URGED ISRAELIS TO REALIZE THAT
"PLO LEADERS HAVE ALWAYS DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH (SIC)
TERRORISM... INDEED WE NEVER HEARD THE PLO SAYING THEY
WISH TO DESTROY ISRAEL."

4. VISIT HAS RECEIVED SOME, BUT RELATIVELY LITTLE MEDIA
ATTENTION. IT IS NOT REGARDED AS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE
BY MFA. RAVIV (DIRECTOR, EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, MFI)
TOLD US THAT ISRAELIS HAD DECIDED TO TAKE RELAXED ATTITUDE
TOWARDS VISIT AND NOT TO RESPONDE TO POSSIBLE PROVOCATION BY
VISITING JOURNALISTS. HE NOTED THAT WHEN SOVIETS WERE ASKED
WHERE THEY HAD OBTAINED VISAS, THEY SAID IN THE HAGUE.
HAVIV FURTHER NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ONLY A VERY FEW
SIMILAR VISITS BY SOVIETS TO ISRAEL IN RECENT PAST. HE SAID
ISRAELIS HAD ALSO BEEN INTERESTED THAT FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1967,
SENIOR ISRAELI OFFICIAL (DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL) HAD RECENTLY
RECEIVED VISA ALSO IN THE HAGUE, AND TRAVELLED TO AN
INTERNATIONAL CONF OF COPRIGHT LAW IN MOSCOW.

5. COMMENT: VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN STRICTLY
ANODYNE AFFAIR WITH NO EVIDENT IMPACT ON NEGATIVE STATE
OF ISRAELI-SOVIET RELATIONS.
KEATING

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